

## AMENDMENTS TO THE CLAIMS

1. **(Currently Amended)** A rolling bearing having comprising:  
an outer ring, ring;  
an inner ring, ring; and  
a plurality of rolling elements, wherein at least one of said the members, the outer ring, inner ring and rolling elements, elements has a nitrogen rich layer, said at least one of said outer ring, inner ring and rolling elements is made of SUJ2 steel as defined by Japanese Industrial Standard, and the a grain size number defined by Japanese Industrial Standard of austenite crystal grains in said nitrogen rich layer is in the range exceeding the number greater than 10.
2. **(Currently Amended)** A rolling bearing as set forth in Claim 1, wherein the a nitrogen content in the said nitrogen rich layer is in the range of 0.1 - 0.7%.
3. **(Currently Amended)** A rolling bearing as set forth in Claim 2, wherein said member at least one of said outer ring, inner ring and rolling elements is a raceway ring, and said nitrogen content is its value a nitrogen content measured in the a 50  $\mu\text{m}$ -deep layer of the a raceway surface after grinding.
4. **(Currently Amended)** A rolling bearing as set forth in Claim 1, wherein the a hardness in said nitrogen rich layer is not less than Hv 700.
5. **(Original)** A rolling bearing as set forth in Claim 4, wherein the hardness is within the range of Hv 720 - Hv 800.
6. **(Currently Amended)** A rolling bearing as set forth in Claim 4, wherein said member at least one of said outer ring, inner ring and rolling elements is a raceway ring and said hardness is a value in the a 50  $\mu\text{m}$ -deep layer of the a raceway surface after grinding.
7. **(Currently Amended)** A rolling bearing as set forth in Claim 1, wherein the a retained austenite content in the said nitrogen rich layer is in the range of 11 - 25%.

8. (Currently Amended) A rolling bearing as set forth in Claim 7, wherein the a nitrogen content in the said nitrogen rich layer is in the range of 0.1 - 0.7%.

9. (Currently Amended) A rolling bearing as set forth in Claim 8, wherein said member at least one of said outer ring, inner ring and rolling elements is a raceway ring and said nitrogen content is its value a nitrogen content measured in the a 50  $\mu\text{m}$ -deep layer of the a raceway surface after grinding.

10. (Currently Amended) A rolling bearing as set forth in Claim 5, wherein said member at least one of said outer ring, inner ring and rolling elements is a raceway ring and said hardness is a value in the a 50  $\mu\text{m}$ -deep layer of the a raceway surface after grinding.